

## WE CLAIM:

1           1. An extruder drive assembly comprising:  
2           a housing;  
3           at least two extrusion worms each having a drive shaft  
4           extending into the housing; and  
5           at least one drive motor including at least one  
6           cylindrical stator fixed in the housing and a cylindrical rotor  
7           cooperating with the stator so as to be rotatably driven by the  
8           stator, the rotor surrounding the drive shafts, each of the drive  
9           shafts being independently connected to the rotor for driving  
10          thereby.

1           2. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 1  
2           wherein a single cylindrical stator is disposed in the housing  
3           and is surrounded by a single cylindrical stator, all of the  
4           drive shafts being connected to the single rotor.

1           3. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 2  
2 wherein the single rotor is internally toothed and each of the  
3 drive shafts is formed with an externally toothed spur gear, at  
4 least one of the spur gears being directly meshed with the  
5 internal toothing of the single rotor.

1           4. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 3  
2 wherein two of the shafts have their respective spur gears  
3 independently meshing with the internal toothing of the single  
4 rotor.

1           5. The extruder drive defined in claim 3 wherein one  
2 of the spur gears is directly in mesh with the internal toothing  
3 the extruder further comprising  
4 an intermediate gear in direct mesh between the other  
5 of the spur gears and internal toothing.

1           6. The extruder drive defined in claim 1 wherein there  
2 are two cylindrical stators in the housing each surrounding and

3 driving a respective cylindrical rotor, each of the drive shafts  
4 being connected with a respective one of the rotors so as to be  
5 driven thereby.

1 7. The extruder drive defined in claim 6 wherein each  
2 of the rotors is directly connected to a respective one of the  
3 drive shafts.

1 8. The extruder drive defined in claim 6 wherein at  
2 least one rotor is connected by at least one intermediate element  
3 with the drive shaft of a respective worm.

1 9. The extruder drive defined in claim 8 wherein at  
2 least one of the rotors drives an intermediate shaft coupled by  
3 gearing with the respective drive shaft.

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1           10. The extruder drive defined in claim 9 wherein each  
2 of the rotors drives an intermediate shaft coupled by gearing  
3 with the respective drive shaft.